which the running cost for power is about 6 paise per litre and the balance is for repayment of capital. However, the cost is expected to come down further once higher capacity desalination plant is commissioned and run over a long period.

Human trafficking by recruiting agencies

1187. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to check the racket of human traffickers and fake recruiting agents who recruit young women to Gulf countries for sexual activities;

(b) the number of cases that have been detected and reported by the Indian Consulate in the Gulf countries and the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of cases in which erring recruiting agencies have been charged; and

(d) whether Government have introduced any effective measures in the immigrations laws to check the above said rackets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Taking into account the vulnerability of women and on the recommendations of National Commission for Women, instructions were issued on 20.11.2003 to all the Protectors of Emigrants for not granting emigration clearance to women below the age of thirty years intending to go to any foreign country for employment as housemaids/domestic workers. In such cases, the employment contract is required to be mandatorily attested by the concerned Indian Mission.

Miseries of Indians abroad

1188. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unscrupulous recruiting agencies were responsible for the miseries that Indians, especially the labour class had to face in many countries, including United Arab Emirates;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had decided to issue Smart Cards to Indians seeking overseas jobs to curb exploitations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) and (b) Government have received such complaints from time to time. On receipt of a complaint against a registered recruiting agent, a Show-Cause Notice is issued to him to resolve the matter. If the agent fails to settle the complaint within the prescribed time, action is taken to suspend and thereafter cancel the registration certificate and for fieture of Bank Guarantee. In cases of unregistered agents, the concerned Protector of Emigrant is directed to file a complaint with the concerned Police Authorities for taking action against them for violation of the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983.

(c) and (d) A proposal entitled "e-Governance solution for emigration" received from the Semiconductor Complex Ltd. (SCL), Punjab — a Government of India enterprise — is under consideration of the Government. The said proposal envisages establishing a complete IT infrastructure at the Office of Protector-General of Emigrants and eight field offices of the Protector of Emigrants and providing a tamper proof "Smart Card" based ID photo cards to emigrants which shall have adequate data storage capacity to carry emigrants' personal information, visa particulars, recruiting agent's details PoE office approval reference, insurance details, etc.

Reservation for women in Government jobs

1189. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation, with relaxation in age and educational qualification, is available for women candidates for appointment to various grades in Central Government Offices and Organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of women appointed to various grades of posts reserved for them in different organizations during the last three years;

(c) if no such reservation or relaxation in age and educational qualification is available for women candidates, whether Government proposes to introduce such a system; and